

REMARKS

Applicant traverses the outstanding Election/Restriction Requirements because the Examiner has failed to make out a *prima facie* case that, if the claims of both Groups were examined together, that a serious burden would be imposed upon the Examiner. See Section 803 of the MPEP. Section 803 requires that, if a search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Quite the contrary, it would appear from the present Application that no serious burden does exist upon the Examiner, because the same, or a very similar, search is believed to be required for proper examination of all of the pending claims. Both independent claims 1 and 7 include the similar features of substrate LCD's, pixel electrodes, and protrusion structures. Applicant respectfully submits that the classes and subclasses required to be searched for a proper examination of either identified Group would likely be the same. Minimal, if any, additional searching would therefore be required if claim 7 were to be examined with claims 1-6, 8, and 9.

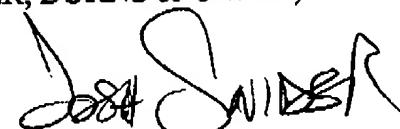
Additionally, because the non-elected Group II only includes one claim, the examination of Group II with elected Group I would be even less likely to pose any serious burden upon the Examiner. Similarly, no serious burden exists upon the Examiner to examine together his identified species IA-IF.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Election/Restriction Requirement be withdrawn, and that all of the claims of the present invention be examined together.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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